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versity in 1915, Dr. Branner occupied the headship of the department of geology and mining, holding also the office of vice-president of the university from 1898 to 1913. Upon the creation of the title of chancellor for Dr. Jordan, in 1913, Professor Branner was elected president, a position which he held until January, 1916, when he also retired under the age limit established by the university, and became president emeritus. During his years of service at Stanford, Dr. Branner found occasion to direct or participate in professional missions, such as his expedition to Brazil under the patronage of Alexander Agassiz in 1899, and again in 1907-1908. He was also one of the special government commissioners on the Panama Canal, and on the California earthquake of 1906.

"The scientific service of Professor Branner has been widely recognized. He was a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Philosophical Society, was president (1904) of the American Geological Society, vice-president (1890) of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, held membership in the Geological Societies of London, Edinburgh, France, was president (1911) of the American Seismological Society, and was a member of geologic and geographic societies of several Brazilian states and of other countries. He has received the degrees of Ph.D. from Indiana University in 1885, of LL.D. from the University of Arkansas in 1897, from Maryville College in 1909, and from the University of California in 1915, and the degree of Sc.D. from the University of Chicago in 1916.

"His publications are numerous and, while the great majority are on geology, many evidence the breadth of his active interests in botany, entomology and other lines of natural sciences. His grammar of the Portuguese language (now in its fourth edition) grew out of his Brazilian experience. His bibliography of Clays and Ceramics, an important compilation; the "How and Why Stories," a charming collection of southern negro dialect myths (1921); his genealogy of "Casper Branner of Virginia and His Descendants"; and his recently completely but as yet unpublished translation from the Portuguese of Alexandre Herculano's *Establishment of the Inquisition in Portugal*, all evidence his breadth of interests and his tireless energy.

"As a teacher Professor Branner exerted upon his students an influence which inspired them to their best efforts. His broad experience, his own systematic and untiring research, his realization

of the supreme importance of practical experience as the final test of all theories, were well calculated to stimulate the ability and energy of his students, while his simple, sincere, and sympathetic personality attached them to him with a rare devotion."

Dr. Branner's attitude toward the office of president was characteristically expressed in his inaugural address:

"I am here to serve you in every way in my power and in everything that pertains to your work as instructors in the university and as scholars interested in your own special lines of work. I expect and I intend to be the servant of every member of this faculty except myself. I consider the support I can give you my most important duty, and it will be my greatest pleasure."

In becoming president of the university, Dr. Branner did not cease to be teacher and colleague. He made the problems of all the departments his own. In his relations with students and faculty the informality of attitude and high courtesy were unchanged. He maintained the same dignified simplicity he had exhibited as executive head of his department.

Dr. Branner's life is a great heritage for Stanford University, for California, and for the nation.

RAY LYMAN WILBUR,  
President

## SCIENTIFIC EVENTS

### A COUNT OF BIRDS

RENEWED interest in the bird population of the United States has led to a revival of the efforts, begun in 1914, by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, to collect information on the number and distribution of the birds breeding in this country. Counts have been made each succeeding year, and interested persons who are thoroughly familiar with the breeding birds of their respective vicinities are asked to aid in the work. By continuing these counts over a period of years and counting the same areas each year, knowledge can be gained not only of our total bird population but also of its fluctuations from year to year. The counts, moreover, will greatly help in determining what effect the present state and federal laws have on the increase of game and insectivorous

birds. The department hopes that counts will be continued on all land where they have previously been made, and it especially desires to obtain also series of counts indicating the bird life on the plains; on the deserts, both with and without irrigation, and in the southern and western states.

It might be well to select new areas where physical conditions are not likely to change much for a number of years, so that if succeeding annual counts show changes in bird population it will be known that they are not due to changed environment brought about by man. On the other hand, there is much to be learned regarding the adaptation of birds to changes of environment; any area therefore on which reports can be made year after year may be chosen, even though conditions are likely to change. Possible inability to repeat a count on the same tract need not, however, deter any one from making the count this year.

The height of the breeding season should be chosen for this work. In the latitude of Washington, D. C., at latitude 39 degrees, May 30 is about the right date for the first count. In the latitude of Boston the work should not begin until a week later; while south of Washington a date still earlier than May 30 should be selected. The department wants to learn how many pairs of birds actually nest within the selected area. Birds that visit the area only for feeding purposes must not be counted, no matter how close their nests may be to the boundary line.

Several kinds of counts are needed for a study of the relative abundance of birds under changing and stationary conditions. It is hoped that many persons interested in bird life will make one or more counts this season. If only one count is made, the tract selected should represent average farm conditions for the locality, should not have an undue amount of woodland or orchard, and should contain not less than forty acres a quarter of a mile square nor more than eighty acres. If there is an isolated piece of woodland of from ten to twenty acres conveniently near, a separate count of the birds nesting there will be useful in addition to the count on the rest of the farm. In this case the report, in addition to specifying

the size and exact boundaries of the area, should give the principal kinds of trees, and whether there is much or little underbrush.

A third count is desired of some definite area of woodland, which is part of a larger timbered tract. Still a fourth count, supplementary to these is needed. The average farm in the northeastern states contains about one hundred acres, and the average count hitherto has been of the birds nesting on the fifty acres of the farm nearest to and including the farm buildings. It is now necessary to obtain counts also of the remainder of the farm, the wilder part containing no buildings, especially on the same farms where counts about the buildings have already been made. Besides these, counts on any other kinds of land are much desired for comparison.

Any one who is willing to do this work is requested to send his name and address to the Biological Survey, Washington, D. C. Full directions for making a count and report blanks will be sent in time for plans to be made before the actual time for the field work. Since the bureau has no funds with which to pay for this work, it must depend on the services of voluntary observers.

#### THE CHEMICAL EXPOSITION<sup>1</sup>

THE Eighth National Exposition of Chemical Industries will be held this year in the Grand Central Palace, New York, during the week of September 11 to 16, inclusive. It will follow immediately upon the fall meeting of the American Chemical Society. The early date will give college and university men an opportunity to see the exhibits before the beginning of the college year. There is much in this coming exposition to interest university men. Each floor has exhibits of laboratory apparatus, and one floor has a considerable group of this type of equipment. Many new pieces of apparatus, new chemical compounds, and other material and instruments will be found here.

The interests for industrial chemistry in the exposition are wide and varied: from raw materials in minerals, ores, manufacturing crudes or by-products, through the range of ma-

<sup>1</sup>From the *Journal of Industrial and Engineering Chemistry*.